# THE TRACK RECORD

## THE WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #148 APRIL SUMMARY 2005

EDITOR RAY CROWE

COVER ART BY ROB JOHNSON

# Do 8-foot, hairy apes prowl Del Norte's backcountry?

## *People continue to report Bigfoot sightings*

**By Jennifer Henion**
*Triplicate staff writer*

Visitors to Del Norte County's backcountry sometimes encounter more than giant redwoods and clear, fast-flowing rivers.

According to local lore, there are also creatures that resemble hairy, 8-foot apes with giant feet.

In Del Norte some people say Bigfoot is more than just a campfire story. Nearly everyone who has lived here long knows someone who claims to have had an encounter with the beast.

It was in Del Norte County where Bob Gimlin and Roger Patterson shot the famous film footage of what appeared to be a female Bigfoot walking along the banks of Bluff Creek in the 1960s.

Today, people continue to come to Del Norte looking for Bigfoot — or Sasquatch, as it's also known.

The Bigfoot Field Research Organization Web site contains many references to sightings of the creature in Del Norte. In fact, according to the BFRO Web site, Del Norte has more reported Bigfoot sightings per square mile than anywhere else in the nation. The Web site lists reported sightings by tourist hikers on Del Norte's backcountry trails as well as travelers driving along Highway 101.

Some of the recounted tales are dramatic. Last September, a 54-year-old man from San Francisco said he might never travel through Crescent City again, because of his encounter with a Bigfoot one sunny afternoon.

"I pulled off to allow cars to go by and as I went to pull back onto Highway 101, I heard the most horrifying scream I had ever heard. I screamed myself and ducked down on my seat. Looking up next to my Honda CRV was a filthy looking gorilla (best I can describe). It instantly ran into the tree line a few feet away and vanished into the dense brush," the man, known only as H.K., wrote on his BFRO Web site posting.

> *'I heard the most horrifying scream I had ever heard. I screamed myself and ducked back down on my seat.'* CR-V Jocko Footprint
> – Eyewitness

The Bigfoot Field Research Organization is a group of volunteer scientists, teachers and other curious professionals.

The group's Web site — www.bfro.net — allows people to report their encounters on the Internet as long as they include their name and contact information so that a member of the BFRO group can interview them, inspect the place of the encounter for any available physical evidence and determine the validity of the report.

Names are left off the Web site, however, if anyone who reports an encounter prefers to stay anonymous.

Bigfoot has a long history in Del Norte County. In fact, stories of such creatures have been told by Del Norte's Tolowa and Yurok Native American tribes for hundreds of years.

The Yurok people knew Bigfoot as Omah.

According to Tolowa historian Loren Bommelyn, the creatures offered food and protection to tribal members after the Tolowa had gone to war with the early American pioneers trying to settle here.

Early gold miners also told stories of Bigfoot encounters.

Today, some Bigfoot hunters come to Del Norte County's wilderness equipped with night- vision goggles, digital sound recorders and video recorders.

Sound recordings of what's believed to be Bigfoot wails are available on the BFRO Web site. Pictures and video clips of the animal believed to be real are also available on the Web site.

coming out there with guns looking for the monster. After

# The Track Record

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**MAKE CHECKS TO RAY CROWE PLEASE I DON'T HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT TO WBS, IBS, TRACK RECORD, ETC...MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO RAY CROWE...PLEASE!!**

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*** REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL.** Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.

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Numbers of subscribers are dropping below a critical limit. If you know somebody who would subscribe, please encourage them. Thanks, Ray

## MEETING

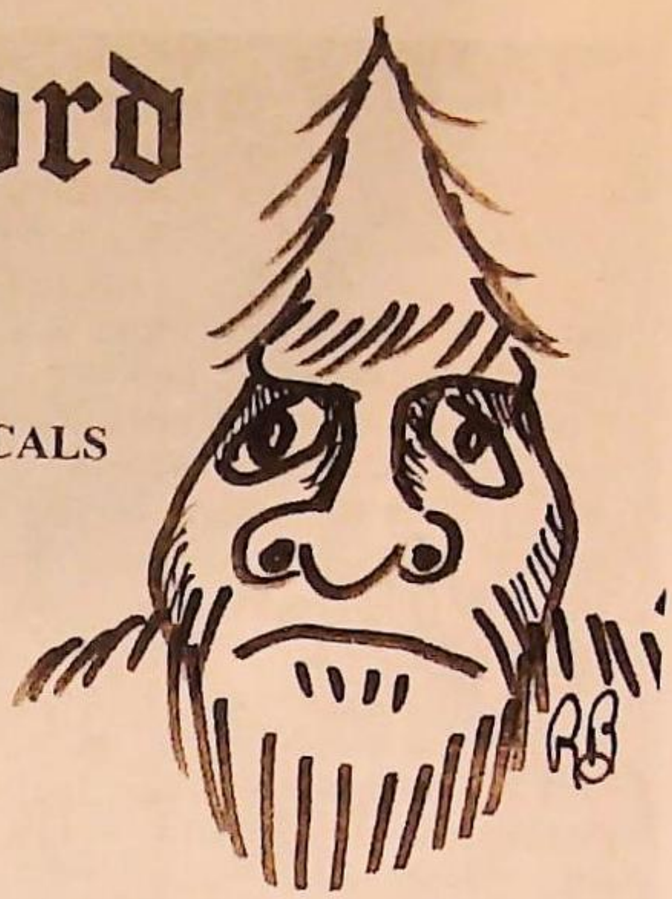
Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland, OR. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum at the Home Plate and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz.

## MEETINGS

The April meeting featured guest speaker Kewaunee Lapseritis, B.A., M.S., giving an excellent presentation topic concerning his book, "The Psychic Sasquatch," 1998. He has studied the topic for 49 years from such diversce places as Amazonia, Africa, Japan, the Himalayas, and will soon spend a month in Hawaii, speaking and investigating the Hawaiian Bigfoot, said to be on the island of Kawaii with a lady who communicates with dolphins and whales telepathically.

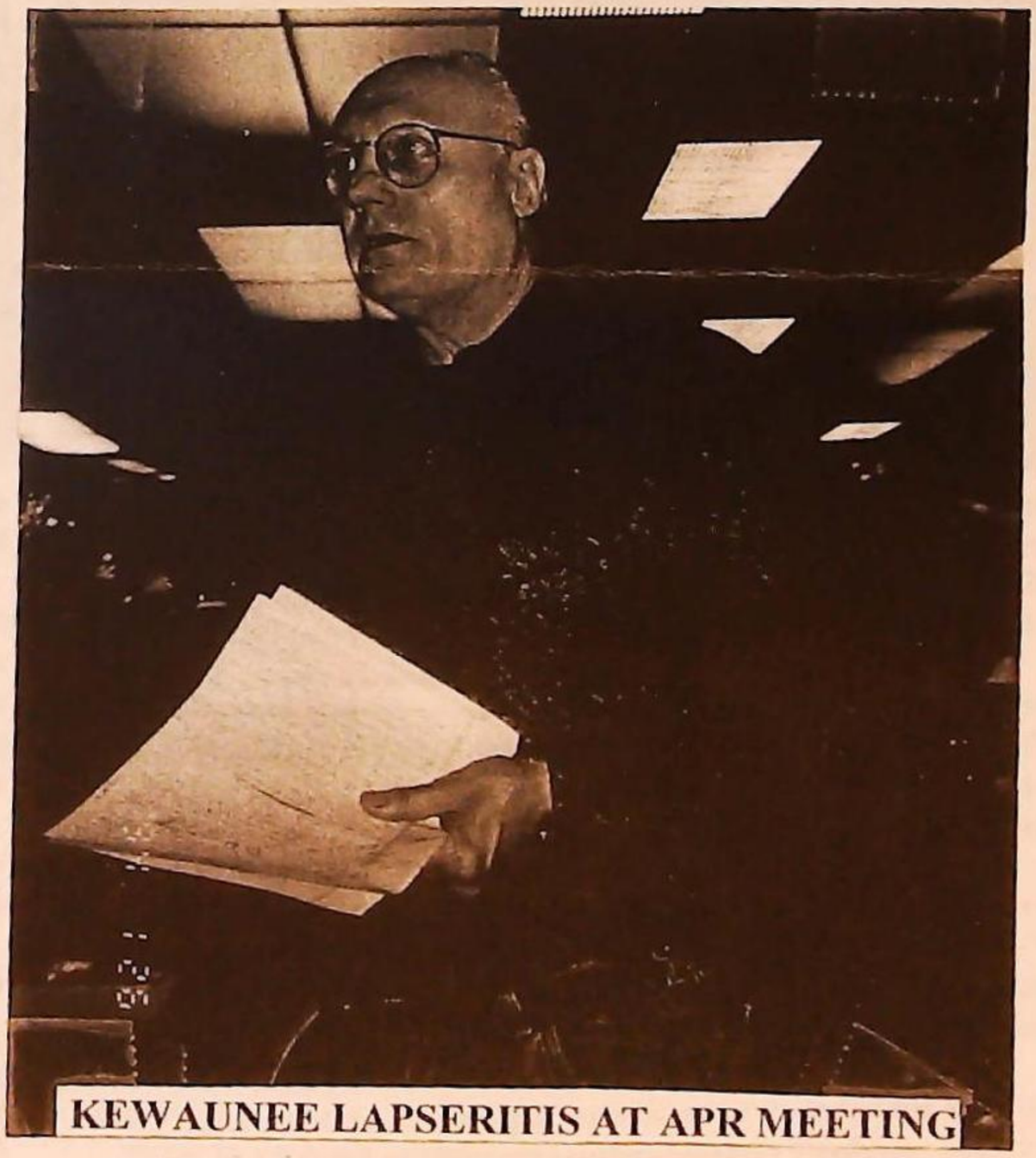
Most recently, he has been investigating a Texas farm couple who have had repeated visits by two types of cryptid; The Old Ones (more hairy, humanoid types), and a Sasquatch type of these interdimensional "nature" peoples. Kewaunee says he has had contact with these beings over 750 times, visually seeing them at least 7 times.

Some comments from my meeting notes: 75% of contacts



**KEEP YOUR SKEPTICALS ON WHEN READING REPORTS**

are with women; they know if you have a camera, although they can be caught off guard; they have been here for millions of years; they can do dematerializations, "I've seen it happen four times;" these are people with hair that are more intelligent than we are; they believe in God and Jesus, and pray a lot



**KEWAUNEE LAPSERITIS AT APR MEETING**

In Sprague River, OR, 1984, people saw ET's, a little ship landing, and little tiny boot tracks that ended abruptly, where they had dematerialized.

Kewaunee brought with him guests, Pat and Marie Macey of Lake Stevenson, WA (yes, they joined the IBS), who said in NE Washington at a vortex they say a dog that disappeared.

After the talks, Kewaunee presented us with a series of photographs from the Santa de Cristo Mts, CO; one of which had one of the best close up photos of a red "Old One" that I have ever seen. Another photo had a being in

the process of dematerializing. Several very clear track photos were also displayed.

From the previously mentioned farm in Texas, there was an amazing 15 minute video with numerous shots taken from a hidden infrared camera, showing creatures hurrying across an area, trying to avoid the camera that they knew was present. Two of the shots had albino creatures. There were many instances of a strange sounding "language" as the creatures communicated, reminding me of the Sierra or Tenn. Noises. At one point, a dog crossed the area and you could hear clearly, "dog-dog...dog-dog," then some whistles to the dog. It was said they like dogs.

Most startling, was a very hairy (white from the IR) creature that blundered into the camera, bumping his head. In a later shot, he looked into the camera, the large eye apparent on this possible "bad hair day." Another shot had the fingers clearly photographed as the creature apparently was feeling the camera (or giving us "the finger!"

Several questions were fielded nicely, though I was more impressed with the frequent, "I don't know," answer...indicating an honest approach.

The Psychic Sasquatch is available at the Home Plate, or order from Kewaunee Lapseritis, mailed and autographed for $23.00 (see business card). Another book, the Sasquatch People, will appear late this year or early in 2006.

* "Richard Lyttle" <riplyttle@comcast.net>
Subject Meeting w/Dr. Jane Goodall

Ray, I solicited and met with Dr. Jane Goodall for the second time on a Saturday, April 9th, at her hotel in downtown Washington, DC.

I first met with her 2 years ago in DC after approaching her assistant with a request. Dr. Goodall is obviously interested in the Bigfoot phenomenon and is a believer. She especially likes hearing sounds and traits since she was a field primatologist. She's also interested in learning about significant progress by BF researchers.

She was pleasant and punctual. She listened to several of my audio clips and I turned in to her several papers of my Bigfoot research colleagues, sightings articles, pictures of stick structures I've taken over the years (and he says his copies of the Track Record).

Her public speaking and environmental work keep her very busy. If groups want to approach her with their work, I'd suggest emailing a request to Mary Lewis, Jane's assistant at the Jane Goodall Institute. Her email address is listed on the www.janegoodall.org

Ray, thank you for listing my website on Maryland Bigfoot Research, www.marylandbigfootresearch.org. As you say you don't remember but you told me I was your first member of the Western Bigfoot Society you formed back in 1991.-that's what you told that spring day out in '91 at Datus Perry's farm in Carson, WA next to his animal parts rendering barn. (Bigfooter Roy Caddy first took me there, Ray).

I'm active in Maryland Bigfoot research but action is few and far between back here. Take care and hope you have a good '05. Best, Richard "Rip" Lyttle (Rip is our MD IBS representative).

## BIGFOOT ACTIVITY REPORTS

(Keep skepticals on tightly please)

* Sighting:Adam Beecher, 3328 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia v9ktb3 Canada 250-738-0177 vadambheever@hotmail.com

Can you contact: Yes; Can you publish: yes

Date: October, 2002, Early Afternoon

Location: In a poplar slough in NE Calgary. Fall, so it was pretty dried up. Surrounded by farmland, right by two roads.

I don't remember the exact day, but it was in October. Me and my friend Niel White (also a witness) had went down to an old slough outside my old house in North-East Calgary, exploring and talking.

The previous night we had heard strange sounds comparable to a coyote (which we have seen there),so we went up there to check it out at about 11:30 or so.

We went into the trees and as we got deeper we began to notice trees that had been twisted off, something that would require immense strength. It kind of creeped us out, so we left the slough and walked around in the field outside for a while.

We started walking near the bushes again. Jomaar pointed into the trees "See that brown thing?"

I looked to see what looked like a large brown humanoid shape in an "Indian sit" (kind of a mix between a crouch and a sit, you do it not to get your pants dirty when sitting on the ground), Its features weren't particularly clear in amongst the trees though.

"Yeah, I never noticed that, maybe it's a stump"

"Yeah, probably... It's not the same color as the trees though... I thought I would've noticed it, we're here so often"

"Yeah... You would think"

Suddenly, it turned its head (not towards us, we never saw its face). We ran off without a word, keeping a good eye on it, making sure it wasn't chasing us. We made it home safely (and very quickly).

We talked very little. Several days later we returned to the spot and measured how big it was compared to the tree it was sitting in front of, in the Indian-sit it was in, it was up to my chest (I was 5'4 at the time). I'm in no position to give a good measurement from that, but it was easily six-and-a-half feet tall standing.

We never really told anyone or talked much about it, but we know what we saw. He pretty much tossed it off as another silly adventure of our youth.

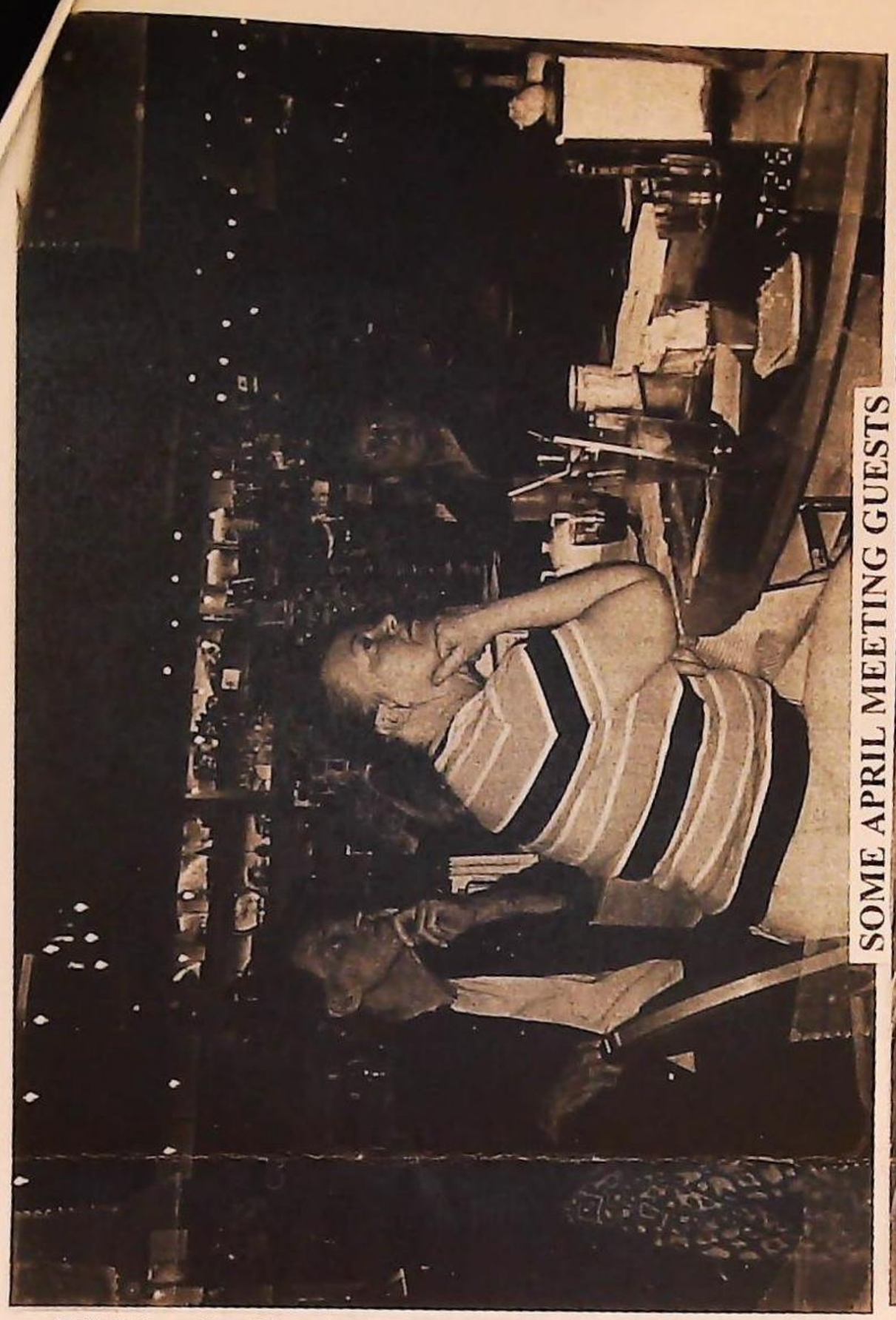
I have seen deer, bears, cougars, wolves. It definitely wasn't any of those.

Physical Attributes:

It was tall, 6.5 tall at the least. When it was sitting/crouching it was up to my chest. It was lean looking, but I remember its arms and neck were comparatively thick. It was covered in brown hair. I believe it was male because I saw no breasts. The sounds we heard are comparable to coyote sounds as far as I remember, but we've heard coyotes before and this sounded different.

Niel would prefer not to talk about it, he thinks people would call him a liar or crazy.

This slough might be cut down in a few years for a road, so if you guys intend to investigate it, you should make plans soon. I have no quirks about being contacted



SOME APRIL MEETING GUESTS

* Sighting: Use Skepticals pleaee
Krystin Skylene Purser, 31053 Little Boston Rd
Kingston, Kitsap, WA 98346, 3602972341
zanmarie25@yahoo.com Can you contact: Yes, Can you publish: yes
Sighting info: July 2000, mid afternoon
Port Gamble, S'klallam Reservation (Little Boston) In the woods near the Hansville Transfer Site (on the back roads near tree farm).
Witnesses: Lisa Reeves Tyson Reeves

We came to a small clearing in the woods while walking, we smelled something bad, and so we were getting ready to head for home. A bird started squawking and we looked in it's direction. That's when we saw a tall hairy creature walking between the trees. Lisa said , "Oh shit" and that's when it realized we saw it. It ducked down and leaned over behind a tree. That was enough for us and we ran all the way home.

Physical Attributes: 8 or 9' tall, dark black or brown fur, more like hair. It's whole face was dark colored, couldn't make out features, other than eyes witch were also very dark. I never smelled anything like what we smelled that day. I am positive I seen what I said I seen. I have lived on the reservation my whole life and have seen many bear, deer, and know it was not any animal I've seen before. Although I've heard many stories of sightings like this in my life. They go back many generations and they all happened here in Little Boston or on other Neighboring reservations.

* Use skepticals please
Sighting: KENNETH VICARI, 84 LEESVILLE ROAD JACKSON , NJ 08527, USA 7328332390
RICHPARTS@YAHOO.COM
Can you contact: Yes, Can you publish: yes
SUMMER 1980, AFTER MIDNIGHT. In RURAL, WOODED PROPERTY ,NOT TOO MANY HOUSES BACK"THEN"
Description of sighting:
LISTEN , THIS WAS A LONG TIME AGO I WAS 13 YEARS OLD AND ALWAYS HAD A FASCINATION "FEAR" OF BIGFOOT, SO THIS IS WHY THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SHOVED OFF BY MY MOTHER AS "OH IT WAS NOTHING" AND BY ME NOT PUTTING MUCH MERIT BEHIND WHAT I HEARD BECAUSE OF MY MOM .

THIS WAS NOT A SIGHTING BUT A VOCALIZATION THAT WAS LOUD AND CLEAR AND SCARED THE SOUL OUT OF ME AT 13 YEARS OLD, I CAN DESCRIBE IT ALMOST LIKE TWO CATS FIGHTING EXCEPT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A CAT BECAUSE THE HIGH PITCHED SCHRILLS AND SCREAMS WERE FOLLOWED BY GRUMBLES THAT WERE LOW AND MUMBLY SOUNDING , THAT'S WHEN I SHOUTED FOR MY MOTHER AND SHE RAN IN AND STARED OUT THE BATHROOM WINDOW WITH ME AND I COULD TELL SHE WAS STARTLED BY THE NOISE BUT SHE AS NOT TO

WOULD LET ME GET ANYMORE FRIGHTED, PROMISED IT WAS JUST A CAT FIGHT OR A FOX OR SOMETHING.

A WEEK OR TWO LATER MY FREIND AND I WERE HANGING OUT JUST TALKING, AND HE SAID TO ME THAT HIS BROTHER AND HIS FREINDS HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH SOMETHING VERY SCARY LAST WEEKEND BACK IN THE WOODS "THESE WOODS WHERE JUST DOWN THE STREET FROM MY HOUSE." I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I HEARD THE STORY, THEY SAID "THEY WERE HAVING A CAMP FIRE WHEN THEY HEARD SOMETHING CIRCLING THEM, THEY GOT UP AND TRIED TO POKE STICKS AT IT TO SEE IF THEY COULD GET IT TO COME OUT BUT THEY SAID ALL IT WOULD DO WAS SCREAM AT THEM AND MAKE FUNNY NOISES" .

NOW YEARS HAVE PAST AND MY INTEREST HAS NEVER DWINDLED. I WATCHED EVERY SHOW AND READ MY SHARE OF BOOKS AT THE TIME, WHEN I CAUGHT A TV DOCUMENTRY ON THE BIGFOOT SUBJECT AND IT'S TELEVISED VOICE RECORDINGS THAT SOMEONE HAD MADE, THAT'S WHEN I MADE THE CONNECTION FROM MY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE, WHAT I HEARD ON TV IS WHAT WAS MAKING A HELL OF A RACKET IN MY BACKYARD, AND THAT NIGHT HAD TO BE THE SAME NIGHT MY FREINDS WERE IN THE WOODS HAVING A FIRE AND THAT'S WHAT THEY HEARD AND ALMOST SAW .

I'VE SINCE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING THAT WOULD STARTLE ME AND I STILL LIVE WITHIN 10 MILES OF WHERE I GREW UP . IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT ME PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME . THANK YOU KEN

* Wear skepticals tightly please
Sighting: Monett R., Woodbridge, VA .
Can you contact: No, Can you publish: yes
Sighting info: April 9, 2005, 12;30 A.M.

Location: In the woods at the end of Misty Lane. (not mountainous).

Witnesses: John S., Patrick W.

Me and two of my friends were walking through the woods to get to the soccer fields on the other side of the woods. It was dark and we heard something behind us, turned around and saw a huge very hairy figure approximately 15 feet behind us, we exchanged glances for a second and it began to charge at us. The pursuit continued for about two minutes as we ran toward the soccer fields. We then ran across a busy street and it did not pursue any further.

Physical Attributes: height: about 8', about 300 lbs., hair color: dark brown, skin color: dark brown, eye color: yellow, kind of glimmeringsize of hands: slightly larger normal, size of feet: about size 18, gender: couldn't tell smell: a mix of fish and body odorsounds: very stealthy when it ran, and made a sort of grunting noise. No other details (that was quite a bit for running! Ray)

* As usual...use skepticals please
Sighting Report: Stephen Hedges, Bedminster, NJ 07921
hedgesst@yahoo.com
Can you contact: Yes, Can you publish: yes
Sighting info: Date: not given, Time: 12:00 pm

Description of sighting: "I was driving in the car, back from the dentist and there it was, walking in a valley by Point Mountain in Hunterdon, NJ"
Height= 8 ft, Weight= ? Hair Black, Hands 9"

* From : Craig Woolheater, ecwool@swbell.net: Footage shot in Manitoba shows Bigfoot, viewers say

Massive, hairy figure seen walking along shore of Nelson River the 'real deal' By DAWN WALTON, globeandmail.com http://snipurl.com/e4ne, April 20, 2005

Hundreds of people have now streamed through a home in northern Manitoba to view A 2-minute 49-second video that has folks believing: Bigfoot lives.

Missy Flett, a self-described cynic, said she was stunned by the image of a massive hair-covered creature walking upright calf-deep in water along a shore of the Nelson River, about 500 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

"I was kind of skeptical when I went over," Ms. Flett, an outreach worker with the NorwayHouse Community Council, explained yesterday after viewing the video. "But after seeing it, I truly believe it's the real sasquatch [another name for Bigfoot]." She asked whether she could take a picture of the images on the flat-screen television with her digital camera, but the family screening the video in this remote community of 6,000 nixed her request.

They are talking about copyrights and thinking about turning the Bigfoot video into big bucks if some media outlet were just willing to pay.

And now, the man who shot the video is apparently "too stressed" to deal with the press.The man behind the camcorder is Bobby Clarke. He's a ferry operator responsible for bringing people and vehicles over the Nelson River at docks located about 40 kilometres north of his home in Norway House.

While at work 6:30 Saturday morning, he noticed a black figure walking along the opposite river's edge about 250 metres away. He grabbed his camera -- something he is rarely without -- and started shooting.

What he captured, according to his sister, Sharness Henry, is the image of a massive creature that stands eight, nine, maybe 10 feet (three metres) tall, walking along the edge of the water through some bulrushes. Near the end of the video, the creature turns and appears to stare into the camera, but the details of its face are impossible to make out.

"He's really hairy," Ms. Henry said. That's when her brother appears to drop the camera. The experience has left him shaken and off work for a few days, Ms. Henry said.

Hubert Folster knows the feeling. He was a ferry operator at the Nelson River crossing about a year ago when he spotted something dark, human-like, but too huge to be human, wandering on the bulrushes locked in the ice along the riverbank.

"It just wasn't right," he recalled yesterday.

For six minutes he watched, but in the poor early morning light, from his distance and without a camera, Mr. Folster can't be sure what he saw and he has never really talked about it.

"You don't want to mention these things," he says now, laughing.

North Americans have reported Bigfoot sightings as far back as the 1830s, but interest in the phenomenon really picked up with sightings, photos and footprints during the

cond half of the 20th century, according to Skeptical nquirer magazine, a publication dedicated to unexplained occurrences.

The most famous is the 16-mm Patterson film shot in Bluff Creek, Calif., in 1967, which shows a hairy, human-like creature walking across a clearing. Many Bigfoot hunters maintain the film is not a hoax, but anthropologists have argued that the size and stride of the creature suggest it could be human.

The shooter, Roger Patterson, has stood behind the film as authentic. Interestingly, a known Bigfoot-track hoaxer has said he told Mr. Patterson where to look for Bigfoot and, subsequently, Mr. Patterson raked in quite a bit of money from the film.

As the Skeptical Inquirer pointed out in a recent roundup of Bigfoot-related evidence, until bones or a body is discovered, there's no real scientific evidence of what Bigfoot enthusiasts purport to study.

Ms. Flett said there's no mistaking the image in the video for a bear or some other kind of wildlife common to the area. Bears have been known to walk on their hind legs, but for short distances. This creature, she said, is walking "gracefully" kind of like a human, but not. "It's awesome," Ms. Flett said. ". . . It's real. It's the real deal."

* Special Update: GlobeandMail.com - Canada in Brief; Alleged Sasquatch Footage reportedly sold to unnamed U.S. Television Wednesday, April 27, 2005 Page A7

Norway House, Man. -- Relatives say a ferry operator has sold a U.S. television show his video footage of a large, dark figure that some are describing as a sasquatch.

Langford Saunders, the uncle of videographer Bobby Clarke, said yesterday there were multiple offers for the two-minute, 49-second tape, but Mr. Clarke and his family chose to deal with people who were sincere and would not embarrass the community.

On April 16, Mr. Clarke was operating an automobile ferry on the Nelson River, about 40 kilometres outside of Nelson House, when he claimed to have seen a dark figure walking upright on the riverbank.

Mr. Clarke said he grabbed his camcorder and recorded the figure looking directly at him, then turning around and heading back into the bush. Relatives said the creature was at least 2½ metres tall. CP

* Note, film was aired May 3rd in many parts of the country on a popular TV program. A clip on the Internet showed a very diffuse, cloudy figure hurrying across a fuzzy area along the Nelson River. There was no good definition. Critics say it was just too far away for clarity, and not enough sun at that time of morning for the light shown.. Current Affair's Website:
http://www.acurrentaffair.com/promo.php?eid=44

Taken from a thumbnail video on a website. Manitoba ferry boat footage. M.K.Davis

## MISCELANEOUS

* raycrowe@netzero.com
Subject: mk pattywriteup, Tue, 12 Apr 2005

Patty Goes Down! By M.K.Davis

It was in a recent broadcast of the Patterson-Gimlin Bigfoot film, that I first noticed the strange posturing of the subject of the film. It's not often that a documentary film company will show the "entire" film. They usually leave out the violently shaky part of the film. When the National Geographic Channel recently aired a show on Bigfoot, they showed the entire film, shaky part and all. I think that this was in response to a man on the show, alleging that Patterson filmed the episode from horse back. He alluded to the shaky part as being caused by the horse. I recorded the broadcast to DVD and later imported it into my computer. I separated all the frames of the early shaky portion of the film, and aligned them all so that the film would become stable when played back. I was curious as to what I would find the creature doing during this almost unwatchable portion of the film. What I found stunned me! It was totally unexpected. The creature appears to actually go down on all fours, or very nearly so. After examining a series of high quality images from the film, it confirmed beyond any doubt, that this did indeed occur. The creature first begins to become obscured by a small rise of high ground between itself and Patterson, the rise at the time of it going down, obscuring about two thirds of the legs of the subject. At this point, the creature throws its shoulders forward, and falls forward, appearing to catch its weight on both arms and shoulders, with the butt crack pointing directly at the camera. When the creature assumed this posture, it no longer had the high profile, but was in fact almost gone behind the rise. Patterson then stops the filming. When the filming resumes again, the creature is out in the open, walking upright, with quite a different posture than before. This is why I have divided the film into two separate parts that I call " Walk Sequences".

In the first "walk sequence", the creature is very bent over during most of the walk. As it puts some distance between Patterson and itself, it begins a strange bit of posturing. It bobs up and down, throwing it's shoulders forward and then pulling back up straight, several times during this sequence, culminating in it actually going down, or very nearly so. The last image of the first walk sequence has the creature's anal area quite exposed to the camera. There is a definite red area between the cheeks, quite visible. I won't speculate on what that is, but that it is indeed on the photo. Those who know the area, and have been there, both then, and later, know that there was no really high hills on the sand bar... only small rises of land. For this much of the creature to become obscured by so small a rise of land would mean that the camera had to be very near ground level. Certainly the angle was very wrong for the filming to have occurred from a mounted horse.

There is no way of determining the duration of the interlude between the filming of the two walk sequences. The camera stops, and then starts again, with the creature on a different part of the sand bar, out in the open. There is no guarantee, or at least it cannot be determined by examining the film, that the creature in the first sequence, is indeed the same creature that is in the second walk sequence. Patterson was filming, and Gimlin stated during a later interview that he did not have his eye on it at all times. With the first walk sequence ending with it nearly

out of view, and the second sequence beginning with the creature already out in the open, there is no way to rule out a different creature emerging from behind the rise. Although, it seems likely that they were one and the same, it cannot be proven with the film.

The creature goes on to take its place in history with its famous "look back" at the camera. Thanks to the miracle of technology, however, we now know that there is more hard science in that violently shaky portion of the film, than in the more familiar "look back" portion. This film lends itself well to analysis.

The details continue to pour from it. It's no longer a "low risk" subject for fraud minded people to highjack for their fifteen minutes of fame. As the details of the film become more vivid, it should become evident that people with the mindset of using the film to their own advantage, are doing so at their own risk. Know the film before you speak, is my advice. If you speak first...then the film itself may actually shout you down. M.K.Davis

* Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net April 1, 2005
From the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger: 29 March 2005
Sasquatch In New Jersey? By Fred J. Aun

New Jersey's wildlife management officials, already tormented by the ongoing controversy surrounding the bear hunt issue, might have another crisis on their hands. How will they deal with the possible existence of a Garden State Sasquatch? That's right. A New Jersey version of Bigfoot might be prowling the woods of Sussex County.

Maybe it's not exactly the same as the creature roaming the Pacific Northwest. It might, for example, sport a mullet.

Nevertheless, the existence of something big and predatory -- possibly not of this earth or this millennium -- was recently the subject of an e-mail discussion between some members of the state Fish and Game Council.

Before reading any more, you might want to go online and download some X-Files music to play in the background. Creating the proper atmosphere is important. On second thought, choose some circus music. Anything silly will do.

The odyssey began last week, when a miniature horse in the Sussex County township of Andover was found missing from its outdoor pen. The mauled and partially-eaten carcass of 250-pound "Phantom" was found at the end of a blood trail leading from its pen to a woodsy hilltop nearby.

Clues at the scene prompted state Division of Fish and Wildlife Biologist Kelcey Burguess to believe Phantom was abducted and killed by a 500-pound black bear. His determination was based, in part, on the existence of 5-inch-wide bear prints found at the scene. The owner of the horse said she saw a large bear peering into her stalls the next day. Of course, all this is merely circumstantial evidence, at least to the very, very open mind of Fish and Game Council Member Jack Schrier.

In e-mails sent this week to fellow council members and many others, Schrier responded with skepticism to Fish and Wildlife's version of the tragedy. "So a bear was seen peering into the stalls," he wrote. "Where is the evidence that a bear-- any bear -- killed that mini? I remain unconvinced."

Former council member George Howard responded by suggesting Phantom's murderer was the Abominable Snowman. The frenzy continued when Joe Crouch, who

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT, NEWPORT, OR
FIJI MERMAID, 1842 P.T. BARNUM FAKE
A MONKEY HEAD ON A FISH BODY

heads the state chapter of Ted Nugent USA, offered his thoughts.

"I agree with Jack," he wrote, "Any number of animals in NJ could have dragged that 250lb pony over and under a few fences and up a steep hill. The fact that there was 5-inch bear prints in the area and along the drag path means nothing."

Callously avoiding political correctness, Crouch wondered if O.J. was in the vicinity. Or, he suggested, "it could have been one of those bloodthirsty local hunters with bear shoes on trying to incriminate the bear. Did anyone check if there were UFO sightings?" It's too bad Schrier will soon be leaving the council. As hunters are well aware, he is the member who regularly voted against a bear hunt. The council will need his brand of wisdom when it decides if New Jersey should initiate a season for Chupacabras, Godzillas or Jersey Devils.

* From :Aaron Buttigieg blackdogkennelz@hotmail.com
To : RayCrowe@netzero.net
Subject : Bottleneck bigfoot photo-trap

Hello, My name is Cameron Buttigieg, from Ontario. I apologize if this is all old news, but I've been poking about on the web and haven't found any mention of this idea.

I've lived, hunted, and tracked in pretty rural areas since I was old enough to hang on to the dog's collar. Been trapping for sum time too, and though I'm by no means an expert, I must say that it seems most of the folks out hangin' up trail cams trying to catch a shot of Bigfoot aren't either.

The first thing I learned when I began trapping was the difference between the shy critters like coyotes and cougars (a breeding population of released pets which officially doesn't exist) and the ones I actually had a chance to trap, like mink, coon, rat n beaver. Coyotes are the worse for having a seemingly psychic sense for knowing exactly what ur' up to and where the traps are. 200 years of constant persecution have forced them to evolve an incredible intelligence and the most spectacular awareness of their surroundings. Nobody snags a coyote by accident. They are renowned for SUSPECTING traps by the mere evidence of a single horse hair dropped from a trapper's coat where there are no horse tracks, often changing their hunting patterns for months.

Now take a creature that has evolved to meet similar survival standards and give it at least the intelligence of a chimpanzee, possibly a human. We think dogs are dumb, yet the coyote persists and even thrives on our effluence. Certainly an erect primate that has persisted for so long in such a hostile environ would possess just such a seemingly omniscient and precise awareness as to make an Apache Scout look like a lobotomized raccoon. Taking this into account, from the view of my own experience, it is astonishing to me that a direct search for this animal yields anything, let alone any concrete physical evidence.

While logic would advise the reduction of on-site presence in such situations, most of the researchers whose reports and literature I read all seem to do the opposite, launching short-term "assaults" on small areas in the form of miniature expeditions, inhabiting patches of "wilderness" and setting up a smattering of hair traps, scent bait, and cameras without rhyme or reason. Common wildlife such as deer, fox, turkey and the like take weeks and often months to return to their regular behavioral patterns following such intrusions. Watching folks like Autumn Williams and Dr. Vernon Watson dash around the forest in bright green nite-vision is so sad as to be funny.

Now, by no means do I have any experience tracking or photographing sasquatch, so I do not mean to criticize the efforts of the general community, but my suggestion would be to take a few pages from the book of professional trappers and hunters. The best K9 trappers go to extreme - almost paranoid - lengths to eliminate scent and leave trap-sets seemingly untouched. There are a myriad of tricks used to virtually eradicate all evidence of physical human presence from areas, and yet there are always the few who are the wiser. I've had the idea of using game trail cams for sumtime' now, tho' I doubt I'll ever get the opportunity to launch such a plan:

Instead of sticking up a handful of trail cams in various trees along game paths (for sum' reason everyone seems to think these critters follow deer trails... Then they wonder why they get nothing but pix of deer...) place them high with a bottleneck strategy. When I want to catch mink, I have to force one to put most of it's weight down on a foot placed neatly into an area of less than 1 square inch. The best way to do this is to build a bottleneck - often a fence of sticks forcing the mink from either bank out into shallow water where it finds a convenient opening. Even better is to use the indigenous terrain to your advantage. Nature and circumstance provides bottlenecks of all kinds - a narrowing in a creek or river where the deer prefer to cross is where many farmers snare them. A line of fence posts that gives raccoons enough confidence to cross an open field is a good place to send the dogs out.

Maybe sumone's already done this and I just haven't read about it yet, but I think the best bet would be to locate a natural bottleneck like a narrowing of a valley or shallows of a stream, in an area with a history of sightings and place a string of analogue trail cams high in the trees, at angles that would maximize their coverage, leaving no blind spot in the string. That essentially gives you a border, where every land animal wanting to pass would have to move thru the photo trap. Since reduction of human presence is called for, it would be invaluable to design the cameras to be solar powered. Make the rounds every couple weeks in full anti-scent gear, retrieve n replace film, and if any critter wants to get from one point to the other, it physically has to cross the border. By this method can one track the movements of a population of organisms, establishing movements and behavioral patterns regardless of initial intelligence or ignorance of that organism.

Depending on the magnitude of the bottleneck, a project of this size might require upwards of 50 camera units. But once you know where the creatures are gonna' be most often, you can put up the good cameras - digital video cameras relaying real-time wireless. Obviously, this would require a substantial amount of funding, but the redeeming quality is that it demands very little human activity. One man might climb up 50+ trees and change film, 1 day every couple weeks. (That man might require an additional day of recuperation after such exercise.....) Plans for homemade trail cams abound on the web, and reliable units are easily produced for less than $100 spent at Radio Shack and Walmart.

Just wondering if anyone had that idea.Don't think I'll live to get the chance to do it myself. Hopefully the idea will be helpful to sumone'.

Cameron Buttigieg
Head Blacksmith and Cartwright
BlackDog Fabricating Co.
Ontario, Canada

(Note: Peter Byrne once suggested that beaters, etc, chase a BF into a bottleneck so it could be darted. Think this was on Unsolved Mysteries)

* Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net April 1, 2005;
EXCLUSIVE: Bigfoot experts and enthusiasts boycott new Sasquatch film, calling it "misleading and inexcusably violent." Thursday, March 31st, 2005

A Massachusetts man, claiming to be a renowned Bigfoot researcher and scientist, has declared a ban on the upcoming Sony Pictures DVD release of Sasquatch Hunters, calling the film untruthful and a mis-representation of the Bigfoot legacy. His petition letter, which goes on in great length about the peaceful nature of the beast, cites the movie as an abomination that will hurt further research and testing in the field of cryptozoology. He's angered that the film presents Sasquatch as a vicious killer. Something he clearly is not...

Or is he? At this current time, there is no solid scientific evidence that Sasquatch actually exists. And none of the research compiled points to the overall conclusion that Sasquatch is a docile creature. This doesn't seem to matter to Mr. Dearwood, who has caused an uproar amongst fellow Bigfoot enthusiasts. He goes on in his petition letter,

calling the film "despicable." He claims that the "wrong image" is being presented, and that Sasquatch Hunters will do nothing but instill "paranoia" amongst an uneducated public. Dearwood is planning a major boycott of the film, with many Bigfoot aficionados ready to back him up. A large sign-waving picket parade is set to be held on April 19th, the DVD's release date, in Dearwood's hometown of Winchester, Ma. Ironically, there has never been a Bigfoot sighting within city limits. Dearwood's hope is that the "movie will fail miserably."

A strike against the purchase or rental of the film seems to be in vein. It's being sold as a fun thrill ride, not an accurate portrayal of a living individual. Mr. Dearwood's main concern is that the public be educated about the plight of what he calls "a new species of apes in the wild yet undiscovered that like to keep to themselves and not be disturbed." Upon first sight, Sasquatch Hunters looks to be nothing more than a cheap and easy follow-up to the 2002 direct-to-DVD release Sasquatch, starring Lance Henriksen. But that is not the case. As director Fred Tepper tells it, his new film, originally entitled Primeval, was made long before Sasquatch appeared on Blockbuster Shelves across America. That film did well enough, Sony acquired the rights to Tepper's film, thus presenting it as a sort-of follow up. Even though it has nothing to do with the previously seen Bigfoot effort.

Movieweb's B. Alan Orange recently conducted an interview with Sasquatch Hunters Director Tepper and Producer Tom Zimmerman, hoping to put some of the Sasquatch sequel rumors to rest, when this boycott came to light. Asked if they had a hand in conducting this staging of a ban to promote their film, the unusually humble Tepper insisted, "Absolutely not." One thing he doesn't want to do is bring too much attention to himself or the film. "It's a Bigfoot movie. I'm not claiming to have made some astonishing epic, or work of art. This isn't Titanic. It is what it is. Some people are going to love it. Some people are going to hate it. But I'm not going to brag about it. I'm not going to go to some Hollywood Nightclub and try to pick up girls by telling them I made a Bigfoot film." When Orange suggested that a boycott of the film could only help sales of their DVD, both Tepper and Zimmerman seemed uneasy about the proposition. Sure, they think it could be great, but it could also backfire. "I don't want to set anybody's expectations too high." Tepper explained. Fred then went on to counter-attack Mr. Dearwood's accusations, stating that the film actually presents Bigfoot in a peaceful light. And that it isn't until the wild animal is provoked that he attacks the humans in the film. "Most of what Mr. Dearwood has to say is presented in the film itself. It's funny how he thinks the stuff he's saying about Bigfoot is hard scientific fact, yet not even all Bigfoot researchers can seem to agree on anything."

B. Alan, a Bigfoot fan in his own right, caught some of the film's Monster footage and claims it's some of the best Sasquatch carnage he's ever seen. "The creature is mean, and nasty. He looks great. It's pretty awesome stuff. I'm looking forward to checking out the DVD when it arrives." This statement, of course, goes against everything Dearwood is fighting for. "Bigfoot is not a monster as you portray him. Problem is; humans won't leave him alone. Bigfoot is a peaceful creature and does not prey on humans. Bigfeet would never deliberately attack a human."

Will Dearwood's rally help the plight of this so-called peace-loving creature? Probably not. Will the movie actually be worth watching? B. Alan Orange sure hopes so. A good Bigfoot film has been a longtime coming. And the 2002 Sasquatch film was a huge disappointment. At least Dearwood has the pussified, liberalized Harry of Harry & the Hendersons to keep his comfort level in check. We here at Movieweb are siding with the violent Stink Ape action.

Stay tuned for a full-length interview with both Director Fred Tepper and Producer Tom Zimmerman. We'll let you know if Sasquatch Hunters is worth crossing the picket line for in the very near future.

* From : Michael Newton, eyeofnewt@att.net>

From the Orlando (FL) Sentinel: 1 April 2005

'Horror' story no fool's prank from '66 vault

Mark Pino. Let's take a trip back in time. Back before Walt Disney built Cinderella's Castle and the Haunted Mansion. Back before places such as Harmony and Celebration existed.

Try to picture Osceola in November 1966. It's a county where most everybody knows everyone else. Where news spreads neighbor to neighbor. Where cattle and citrus still drive the economy. A place with swamps and wild stretches where unexplained creatures could hide and even thrive. Let me introduce you to the "Horror of Holopaw." This is not an April Fool's prank. It is based on historical news accounts from the Orlando Sentinel's archives.

I doubt many remember this odd tale. I rediscovered it the other day doing some research on a totally unrelated matter. There were three articles from 1966 describing the "horror" and the "monster." "It resembled a gorilla, according to a pair of hunters and the son of a ranch hand who claimed they had seen it," according to the Sentinel's account.

Such stories are not unusual in Florida. Last year, a Polk County woman told of a similar sighting. Reports of skunk apes, the smelly Southern relative of Bigfoot, go back more than 200 years, but most folks say it's all myth.

The first story from 1966 carried the headline "Friendly Scared Monster Horrifies Holopaw" and the introductory paragraphs about the "Abominable Sandman" caught my attention all these years later: "There's a friendly but frightened monster roaming about the countryside here. Honest. The residents here believe it. Come twilight, they lock their doors and they keep loaded guns nearby. . . It is five feet tall, hairy, twice as broad as a man and it walks on two feet." A pair of hunters shot at the creature and said it lumbered away, leaving a trail of blood.

"James Crosby, a ranch hand on Deseret Farms, believes his 22-year-old son, Eugene, was the first to see the monster," according to the account. "The creature had raised the garage door at the Crosby home, and when Eugene rushed forth to see what was happening, the monster threw a large tire tube at him. And later -- on three occasions that night -- the monster opened a gate, Crosby recalled."

To Helen Spears, who owned a small zoo with her husband, Bob, it was obvious the monster wanted to be friendly. Ronnie Sharp thought something was out there. "The dogs around here bark more at night than they ever have before. That proves something is roaming around that the dogs aren't used to," he said

The headline from another story from the Sentinel's clips notes that " 'Horror' Still Roams Osceola Gloam" and that "Its Presence Has Osceola County on Edge." The final thread of the story is dated Dec. 7 and says two game wardens were skeptical of the creature's existence.
"If anyone should see it, I would probably be the first to try to locate it. But I can find nothing definite about it, so that's that," said Remer Albritton, whose job was "to roam the far stretches of eastern Osceola."

The final line of the story: "What next?" Apparently nothing. The "monster" retreated into the wilds of Osceola -- or the imaginations of those who originally spotted it.

* Loren Coleman, Portland, Maine

By Alex Breitler, Record Searchlight April 16, 2005,

BURNEY -- Bigfoot, or big phony?

Depends on whom you ask.

A group of longtime Bigfoot hunters say that two weeks ago they saw a dozen huge tracks next to a logging road near Clover Mountain, about 10 miles southwest of Burney. Three days later, on April 5, as they poured plaster casts, one of them claimed to see the beast itself.

Tom Biscardi, 57, said he heard a rustling in the brush and looked up, expecting to see melting snow plopping from the treetops. Instead, he described a "blurry blackness" that rose from a squatting position about 100 yards away and took off through the woods.

"I said, 'Oh God, here it is again,'" recalled Biscardi, who said this was his fifth sighting in 32 years of hunting. "I'm yelling to the guys, 'Come on, get the cameras, let's go!'" To his dismay, Biscardi had left his tranquilizer gun and his wire-mesh grenade launcher at home. He said he threw a stick at the creature hoping to antagonize it, but apparently the beast wasn't fazed and disappeared into the trees after a brief pursuit.

"It walked upright like a man," said Biscardi, who issued a press release about the incident this week. "It wasn't a deer. It wasn't a bear. It was unbelievable."

That's exactly what the skeptics have said about past Bigfoot sightings.

The U.S. Forest Service considered Bigfoot legitimate enough to include the creature in a 1977 environmental impact statement for a logging project in Trinity County.

There's a twist to this story that could fuel further skepticism. A pair of brothers from Burney, Lee and Jimmy Hickman, were among the discoverers of the tracks.

They are grandsons of Ivan Marx, one of the more well-known – and controversial -- Bigfoot hunters of decades past. Marx died five years ago, and many believe his stories were no more than tall tales. Very tall tales -- Bigfoot, after all, is supposedly up to 9 feet tall.

Marx, a hunting guide whose family has lived in Burney for nearly 50 years, announced in 1970 that he had caught Bigfoot on film in Washington state. He boldly stated that he would capture one live within a year.

Six months later, the film was deemed a hoax. A fellow Bigfoot hunter argued the alleged animal was a man dressed in fur. Critics continue to blast Marx on various Bigfoot Web sites. But his widow, 79-year-old Peggy Marx, defends his name and says this latest encounter was real.

Peggy Marx said she went to view the tracks two weeks ago and was there when Biscardi yelled for the cameras. She and her grandsons didn't see the creature, but she said she has spotted Bigfoot four times in the past.

"Some believe, some don't," Peggy Marx said Friday. "They're entitled to their opinion. You just let it fly by -- you learn not to pay attention to people like that."

Biscardi, a former show producer in Las Vegas who lives in Redwood City, got swept up in Bigfoot fever after he saw the most famous footage of all, the 1967 Patterson film shot near Willow Creek in Trinity County. Since then, Biscardi claims to have seen a Bigfoot at Lassen Peak, and, more recently, a white baby Bigfoot.

Last year, he announced an "expedition" to capture a Bigfoot. News reports said he would seek up to $1 million in corporate sponsorships to pay for gear ranging from high-tech global positioning equipment to deodorant and bug spray.

Biscardi enlisted a public-relations firm to get out the word and said any findings would be "offered for commercial sale, use and distribution and scientific study." How does he plan to catch this elusive prey? His tools include a "grenade launcher," which casts a net that would burst open and trap the Bigfoot.

Biscardi also once planned to drop a "sleep bomb" on Bigfoot from an airplane. His expedition involves more than two dozen people searching all over the United States, Biscardi said, including lesser-known Bigfoot hangouts such as Louisiana, Florida and Vermont.

The exact location of the Clover Mountain sighting was kept secret. Biscardidid say it was about 5,300 feet above sea level in an area still thawing out from winter snows.

Few Bigfoot reports come out of the Burney area, but the rugged terrain is likely good habitat, said Bigfoot investigator and U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Kathy Moskowitz.

The prints were said to be 15 inches long and up to 6 inches wide. The creature supposedly had a stride of greater than 5 feet. "These have to be two of the most pristine prints I've ever seen, and I've been in this business a long time," Biscardi said.

Most possible Bigfoot encounters in the north state aren't sightings, but rather blood-curdling screams at night, nasty smells or strange footprints.

The Hickman brothers, who reported finding the latest prints, haven't yet seen a Bigfoot. But the seasonal timber fallers are certainly trying. They spent much of Friday on their off-road vehicles, binoculars in hand, carrying on with the hunt their grandfather Ivan Marx began in 1951. "Anytime the weather's clear, we're out there," said Lee Hickman, 37. "That's all we do. "I've never seen the creature -- but I want to see him."

Bigfoot history: Sixteen Bigfoot encounters in Shasta County have been reported since the 1970s, according to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization(www.bfro.net). There were 20 reported encounters in Siskiyou County, 18 in Trinity Countand four in Tehama County.

The region's first prints were reported by a Redding man in 1958. A Redding woman claimed Bigfoot kidnapped her in 1976, a story refuted by law enforcement.

## Bigfoot Researchers Claim Another Sighting Of Elusive Creature

Bigfoot researchers claim they have found more evidence of the elusive creature, this time in the mountains of California.

The Great American Bigfoot Research Organization contacted NewsWatch50 after our story about a Canadian man who claimed to have sighted the creature, in order to tell the public about an expedition they are conducting outside Burney, California in an area called Clover Mountain.

On April 2, Mr. Lee Hickman, a professional tracker and guide in Burney, and his brother Jimmy were looking for tracks at an elevation of about 5,300 feet on Clover Mountain. He saw about a dozen tracks coming off of Clover Mountain, crossing Burney Creek and then Dry Burney Creek. They followed the tracks toward an area called The Gardens, heading toward McGee Mountain. They lost the tracks at the tree line of McGee Mountain. The Hickman brothers are grandsons of famous Bigfoot researcher Ivan Marx.

Three days later, on April 5, they returned to the area where they saw some of the tracks so they could take plaster casts of them (picture of the casting shown above). With them on the expedition on April 5th were Tom Biscardi, founder of the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization; Robert Shorey, Vice-President of Great American Bigfoot Research Organization; and Peggy Marx, wife of the late Ivan Marx.

The group also claim to have sighted the creature during the making of the casts. While the casts were being made, Tom Biscardi heard a rustling in the bushes. When he looked, he says he could see a creature crouching, looking at the people who were making the casts of the print. When Biscardi pursued the creature, the creature ran away. The party followed the fresh tracks of the creature, but lost them as the creature went over rocky terrain.

Facts about the castings of the footprints:

Length: **15 inches**

Width (at the base(heel) of the print): **4.5 inches**
Width (at the widest part of the foot, which would be at the top of the foot): **6 inches**

The prints that indicated the length of the stride of the creature showed a stride of **64 inches long.**

Photos of the casts and photos of the actual footprints from which the April 5th casts were taken will be available on the official website of the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization, http://www.greatamericanbigfoot.com/.

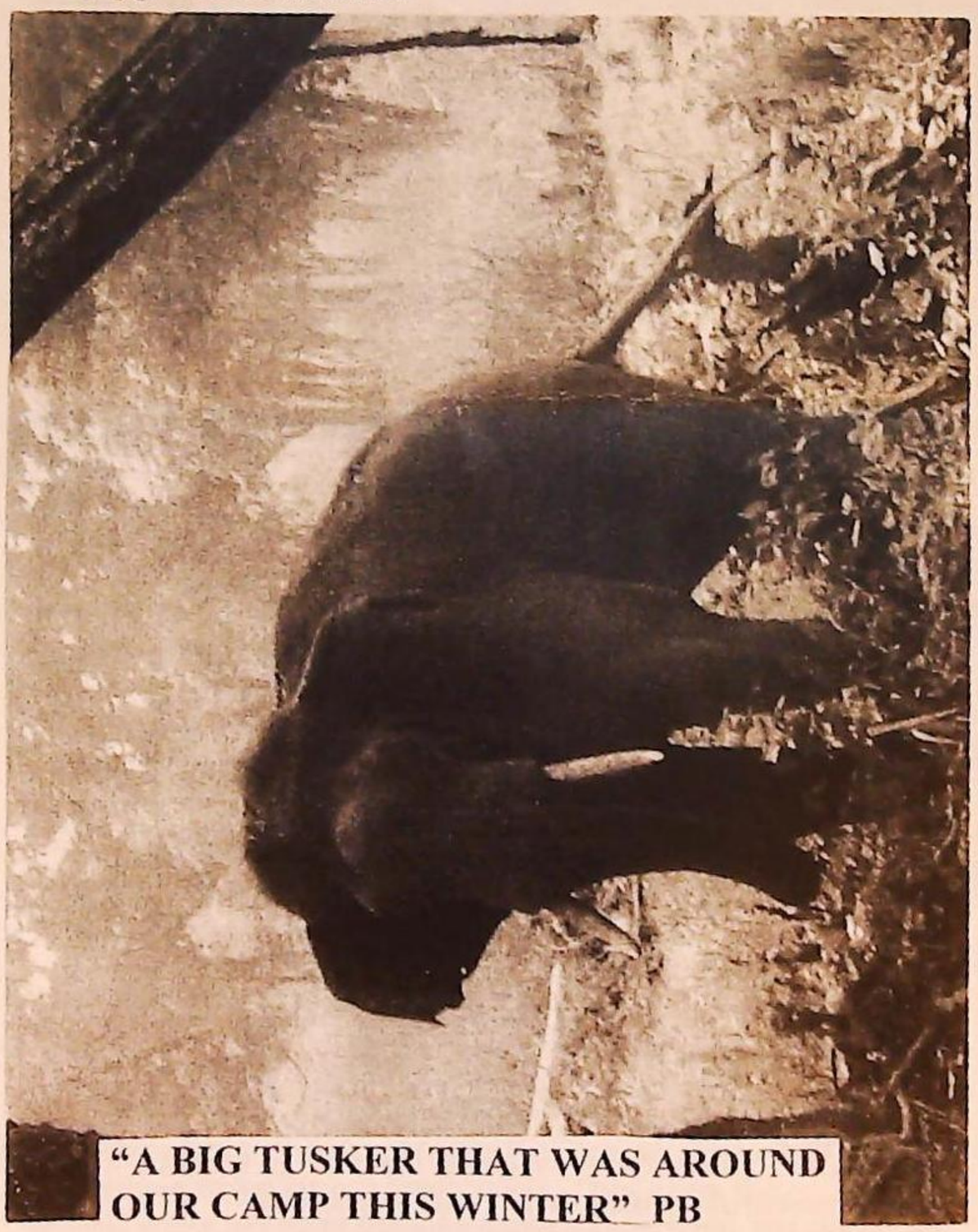
Subject: Peter Byrne in Nepal (at home now)
Fri, 15 Apr 2005

'Ees hot here, F110 in the afternoons and no one out in the midday sun but mad dogs and Englishmen. And out there in the swamps (this city is built on and in a swamp by then way) the Creature from the Black Lagoon lurks >>>

Big panic in the hotel here yesterday, big snake in the garden. Luckily I knew it, an Indian Rat snake, harmless enough to man though it will bite if cornered; a great rodent killer, brown, ten feet long. I was able to catch it and together with some terrified hotel staff pitch it over the garden wall into the swamp where, on the whole, if it does not encounter the Creature, it should be a lot happier.

For the moment >>> Battered but unbowed and, at the least, for now, still all in one piece.
Your PB.

Heck of a writer isn't he! Hopefully he will be able to leave next week for London and the LA.
Cathy Griffin, The Griffin Network
cathy@griffinnetwork.com



"A BIG TUSKER THAT WAS AROUND OUR CAMP THIS WINTER" PB

* lcoleman@maine.rr.com
Conference to Highlight Bigfoot Research, Giant Catfish,
Sat, 09 Apr 2005
Emediawire (press release) - Ferndale, WA, USA

Cryptozoology Conference to Highlight Bigfoot Research, Giant Catfish. The Southern Crypto Conference will be held Saturday June 18 in Conroe, TX. It will feature seminars and clinics on Bigfoot creature research, the search for giant catfish and other intriguing natural mystery subjects.

(PRWEB) April 9, 2005 -- The fourth annual Southern Crypto Conference will take place Saturday June 18 at the Lone Star Expo Center in Conroe, TX.

This year's event will feature interactive clinics and seminars on subjects ranging from Bigfoot creature research to an underwater investigation of giant catfish and other intriguing subjects regarding the mysteries of nature.

Event organizer and founder of Project: Zoo Quest and the American Primate Conservation Alliance (APCA), Chester Moore was recently featured on the Animal Planet network's popular program "Animal X" searching for hidden primate evidence in East Texas.

"We're going to be talking about the research that led up to that show and the amazing things that happened in the course of the field investigation they filmed and recently aired on the show," Moore said.

APCA director/field investigator Kriss Stephens, who was also featured on Animal X, will be on hand to discuss her sighting during that investigation and correlations between their hidden primate research and known primate habits. "We're on the brink of something big in this field of research and we want to share that with the public. We also want to arm them with information so they can contribute to solving these mysteries," she said.

The conference will feature numerous clinics directed at giving attendees help with plaster casting tracks, field photography, animal tracking and other field investigation techniques.

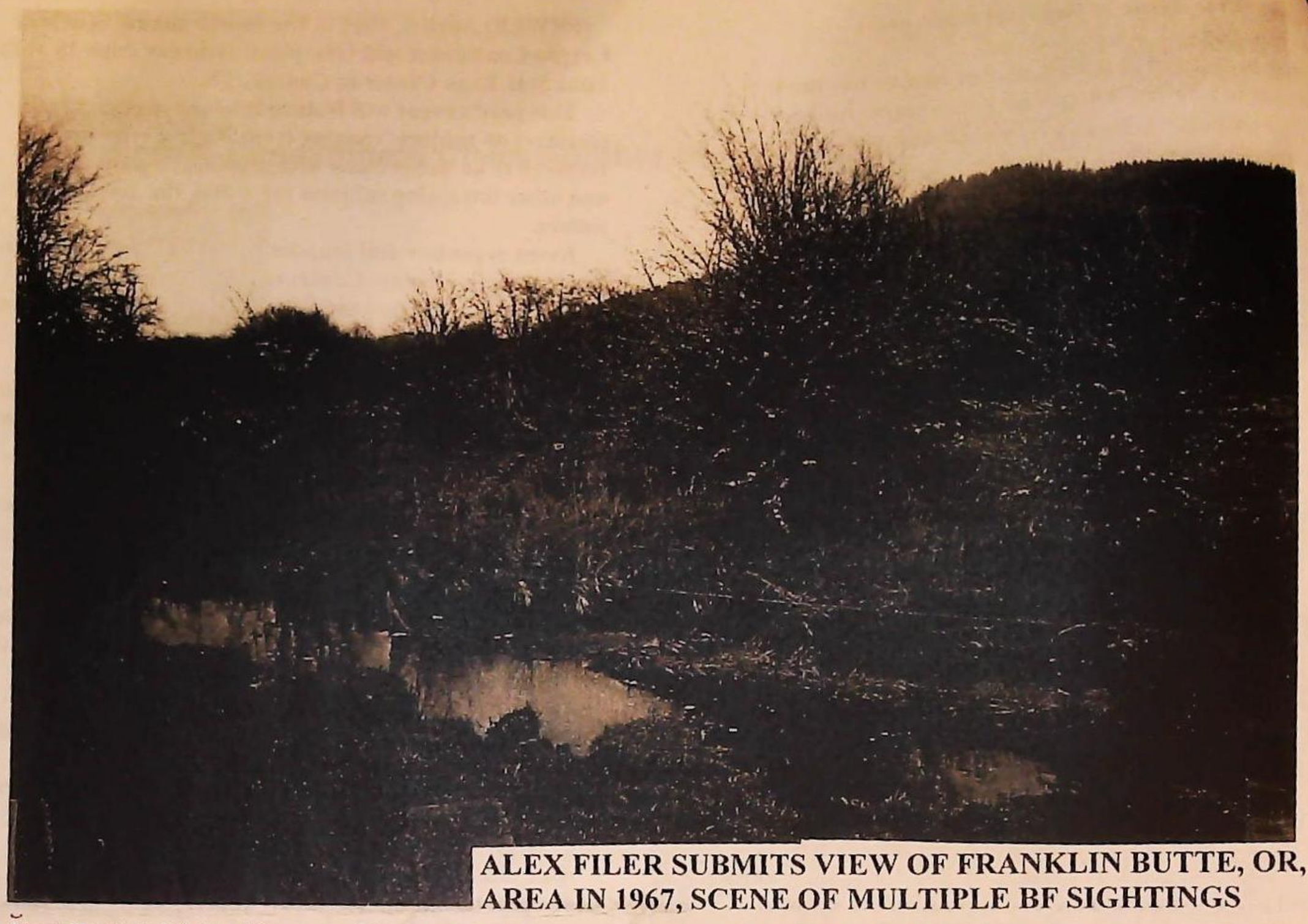
One clinic will allow attendees to do their own computer analysis of the Patterson/Gimlin film aided by MK Davis, an expert on the subject.

"These mysteries are going to be solved in the field and nowhere else so we want to give people a way to be a part of this fascinating quest and also let them have some fun," Moore said.

Moore will be speaking on his search for giant catfish in reservoirs throughout he American South, including exclusive photos and video footage from his dive expeditions. "Everyone has heard the stories of giant catfish in reservoirs. I doubt they are the size of Volkswagens like some say but I do believe there are some huge fish out there perfectly capable of spooking divers and I am going underwater to look for them," Moore said.

"This is going to do what as far as we know no one has done, an organized underwater search for the alleged giant catfish and it promises to be quite interesting. We are going to give conference attendees a first-hand look at our research and right and sort of kick-off our "Giant Catfish Tour". This will be an event in which Moore and Stephens along with other divers and researchers including Ken Gerhard will set out for a week to 10 days hitting a variety of reservoirs from Texas to Florida. "We're hitting these areas to search for eyewitnesses, talk with fish and game personnel and most importantly venture underwater and search. It's going to be a blast," Moore said. The tour will also help raise awareness to conservation issues involving catfish, including illegal hoop netting in Texas where it is a major problem that also affects the threatened alligator snapping turtle. "Besides discovery, conservation is always our chief goal," Moore said.

The Southern Crypto Conference will include the following seminars:



**ALEX FILER SUBMITS VIEW OF FRANKLIN BUTTE, OR, AREA IN 1967, SCENE OF MULTIPLE BF SIGHTINGS**

#Dr. Kent Hovind (Living Dinosaurs/Dinosaurs in the Bible): He will present information presented concerning dinosaurs in the Bible reflecting his extensive study in the field of cryptozoology and that there may still be some living dinosaurs in remote corners of the world.

#Smokey Crabtree (Fouke Monster): Hear the real story regarding the Bigfoot film "The Legend of Boggy Creek" that grossed more than $50 million worldwide and find out what still happens down on Boggy Creek.

#Cryptokeeper.com host and zoologist Chester Moore: See, a sneak preview of the research on giant catfish that Chester Moore has conducted in reservoirs throughout the South.

#Kriss Stephens: The Animal X Bigfoot Expedition.

#Author Ken Gerhard of Houston. (Bigfoot in Belize)

Attendees will get to visit the Interactive Cryptozoology Museum, which includes lifesize replicas of Bigfoot creatures, the Loch Ness Monster and other cryptozoological animals.

They will also get to visit booths from groups like the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organization and displays from numerous cryptozoology authors, researchers and vendors including crypto artist Patrick Trumble. Find rare books and other items.

The event kicks off at 11 a.m. To order tickets online or to find out how to get them by mail, go to www.cryptokeeper.com/conference.htm or you can order them at the door. General admission tickets are $10.00.

Forwarded by Loren Coleman, Portland, Maine

* Mary Green <bigfootlady_55@yahoo.com>

27 Apr 2005 Scientists Say Everyone Can Read Minds; Science - SPACE.com/LiveScience.com

Ker Than; Special to LiveScience.com

Empathy allows us to feel the emotions of others, to identify and understand their feelings and motives and see things from their perspective. How we generate empathy remains a subject of intense debate in cognitive science.

Some scientists now believe they may have finally discovered its root. We're all essentially mind readers, they say. The idea has been slow to gain acceptance, but evidence is mounting.

Mirror neurons. In 1996, three neuroscientists were probing the brain of a macaque monkey when they stumbled across a curious cluster of cells in the premotor cortex, an area of the brain responsible for planning movements. The cluster of cells fired not only when the monkey performed an action, but likewise when the monkey saw the same action performed by someone else. The cells responded the same way whether the monkey reached out to grasp a peanut, or merely watched in envy as another monkey or a human did. Because the cells reflected the actions that the monkey observed in others, the neuroscientists named them "mirror neurons."

Later experiments confirmed the existence of mirror neurons in humans and revealed another surprise. In addition to mirroring actions, the cells reflected sensations and emotions. "Mirror neurons suggest that we pretend to be in another person's mental shoes," says Marco Iacoboni, a neuroscientist at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine. "In fact, with mirror neurons we do not have to pretend, we practically are in another person's mind."

Since their discovery, mirror neurons have been implicated in a broad range of phenomena, including certain mental disorders. Mirror neurons may help

gnitive scientists explain how children develop a theory f mind (ToM), which is a child's understanding that others have minds similar to their own. Doing so may help shed light on autism, in which this type of understanding is often missing.

Theory theory. Over the years, cognitive scientists have come up with a number of theories to explain how ToM develops. The "theory theory" and "simulation theory" are currently two of the most popular. Theory theory describes children as budding social scientists. The idea is that children collect evidence-- in the form of gestures and expressions -- and use their everyday understanding of people to develop theories that explain and predict the mental state of people they come in contact with.

Vittorio Gallese, a neuroscientist at the University of Parma in Italy and one of original discovers of mirror neurons, has another name for this theory: he calls it the "Vulcan Approach," in honor of the Star Trek protagonist Spock, who belonged to an alien race called the Vulcans who suppressed their emotions in favor of logic. Spock was often unable to understand the emotions that underlie human behavior. Gallese himself prefers simulation theory over this Vulcan approach.

Natural mind readers. Simulation theory states that we are natural mind readers. We place ourselves in another person's "mental shoes," and use our own mind as a model for theirs.

Gallese contends that when we interact with someone, we do more than just observe the other person's behavior. He believes we create internal representations of their actions, sensations and emotions within ourselves, as if we are the ones that are moving, sensing and feeling. Many scientists believe that mirror neurons embody the predictions of simulation theory. "We share with others not only the way they normally act or subjectively experience emotions and sensations, but also the neural circuits enabling those same actions, emotions and sensations: the mirror neuron systems,"

Gallese told LiveScience. Gallese points out, however, that the two theories are not mutually exclusive. If the mirror neuron system isdefective or damaged, and our ability to empathize is lost, the observe-and-guess method of theory theory may be the only option left. Some scientists suspect this is what happens in autistic people, whose mental disorder prevents them from understanding the intentions and motives of others.

Tests underway. The idea is that the mirror neuron systems of autistic individuals are somehow impaired or deficient, and that the resulting "mind-blindness" prevents them from simulating the experiences of others. For autistic individuals, experience is more observed than lived, and the emotional undercurrents that govern so much of our human behavior are inaccessible. They guess the mental states of others through explicit theorizing, but the end result is a list -- mechanical and impersonal -- of actions, gestures and expressions void of motive, intent, or emotion. Several labs are now testing the hypothesis that autistic individuals have a mirror neuron deficit and cannot simulate the mental states of others.

One recent experiment by Hugo Theoret and colleagues at the University of Montreal showed that mirror neurons normally active during the observation of hand movements in non-autistic individuals are silent in those who have autism.

"You either simulate with mirror neurons, or the mental states of others are completely precluded to you," said Iacoboni.

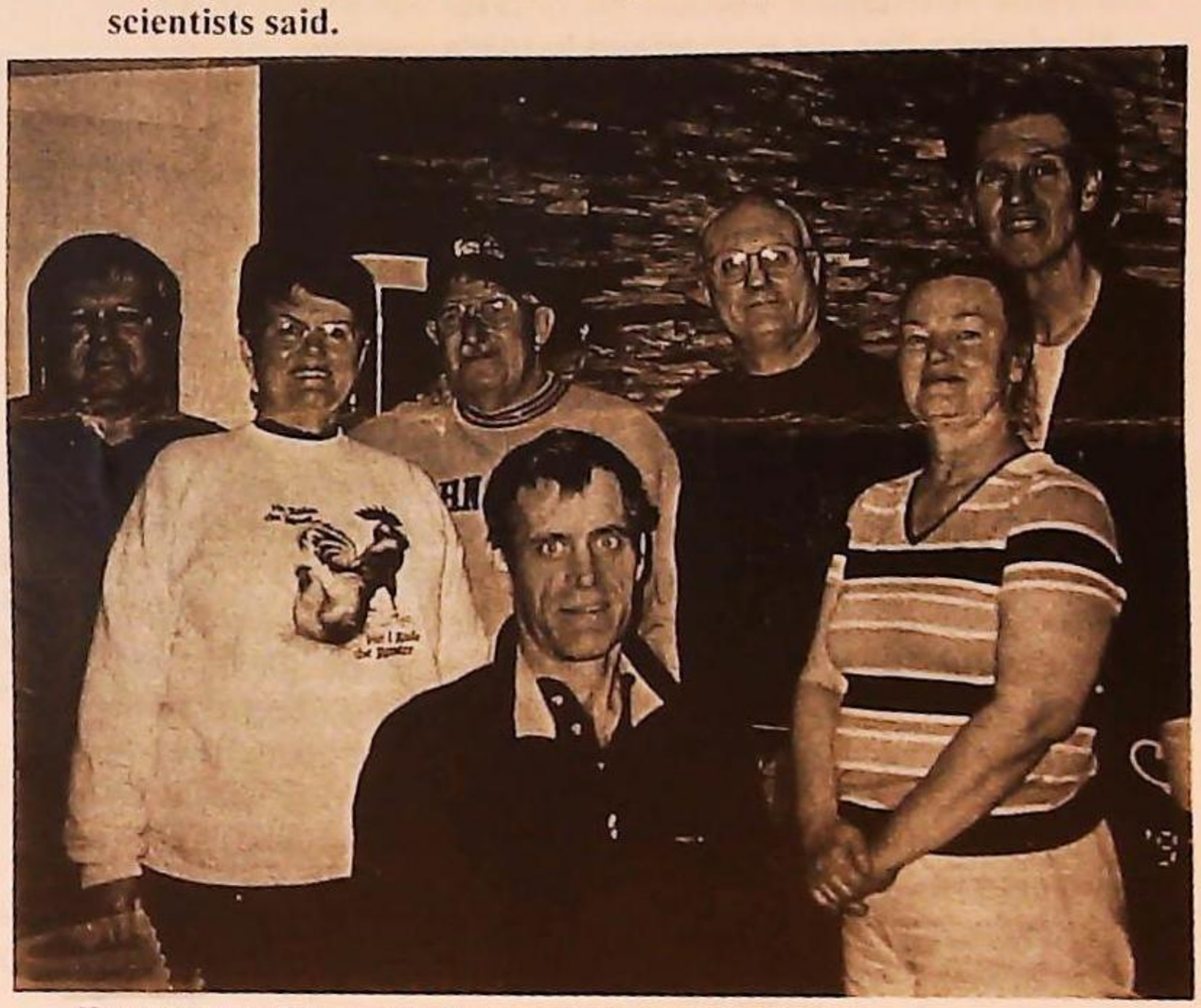
Related Stories

* New Hibernation Technique Might Work on Humans (From Mary Green) Robert Roy Britt, Senior Science Writer LiveScience.com

A new trick could one day put humans into a hibernation-like state without all the frigid antics of an Austin Powers movie or an Arthur C. Clarke story.

Using a natural chemical humans and other animals produce in their bodies, scientists have for the first time induced hibernation in mammals, putting mice into a state similar to suspended animation for up to six hours and then bringing them back to normal life.

The breakthrough suggests humans along with other mammals (like, possibly Bigfoot under extreme climatic conditions? Ray) might harbor a mostly unused ability to hibernate on demand. Further research into the phenomenon could lead to medical advances, such as buying time for humans awaiting an organ transplant, scientists said.



RAY CROWE HOSTS AN INFORMAL GATHERING AFTER THE APRIL MEETING

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"We are, in essence, temporarily converting mice from warm-blooded to cold-blooded creatures, which is exactly the same thing that happens naturally when mammals hibernate," said lead researcher Mark Roth of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

During the induced hibernation, cells virtually stopped working, reducing the rodents' need for oxygen.

"We think this may be a latent ability that all mammals have - potentially even humans - and we're just harnessing it and turning it on and off, inducing a state of hibernation on demand," Roth said.

The results are detailed in the April 22 issue of the journal Science.

Humans already hibernate--Squirrels, bears, snakes and many other animals hibernate naturally, some more deeply than others. Humans have been known to hibernate by accident, Roth and his colleagues point out.

A Norwegian skier was rescued in 1999 after being submerged in icy water for more than an hour. She had no heartbeat and her body temperature was 57 degrees Fahrenheit (normal is 98.6). She recovered.

Canadian toddler Erika Nordby wandered outside at night and nearly froze to death in 2001. She wore only a diaper and T-shirt. It was minus 11 Fahrenheit (-24 Celsius). When found, her heart had stopped beating for two hours and her body temperature was 61 degrees. She suffered severe frostbite but required no amputations and otherwise recovered.

"Understanding the connections between random instances of seeming,y miraculous, unexplained survival in so-called clinically dead humans and our ability to induce - and reverse - metabolic quiescence in model organisms could have dramatic implications for medical care," Roth said. "In the end I suspect there will be clinical benefits and it will change the way medicine is practiced, because we will, in short, be able to buy patients time."

Back from the dead? Already there are companies that will gladly freeze the dead in hopes some way of curing and reviving them might develop in the future. The field is called cryonics. So far, no one has been brought back.

The trick with the mice didn't require freezing. Instead, the rodents breathed air laced with hydrogen sulfide, a chemical produced naturally in the bodies of humans and other animals. Within minutes, they stopped moving and soon their cell functions approached total inactivity.

Humans use hydrogen sulfide to "buffer our metabolic flexibility," Roth explained. "It's what allows our core temperature to stay at 98.6 degrees, regardless of whether we're in Alaska or Tahiti."

In extreme doses, the hydrogen sulfide is thought to bind to cells in place of oxygen. The organism's metabolism shuts down. Upon breathing normal air again, the mice "quickly regained normal function and metabolic activity with no long-term negative effects," the researchers report. They plan to test the technique on larger mammals next.

Practical uses--"Hibernating humans and space travel aside," Roth told LiveScience, "we hope that 'metabolic flexibility' can be used to enhance trauma care, surgical outcome, and organ transplant."

Among the first applications in humans might be to reduce severe fevers, when a patient is near death. Clinical trials for such a procedure could begin in five years, the scientists say.

"We believe we know how to flip the breaker on the patient's furnace," Roth said. "If they have a fever, we believe we know how to stop it on a dime."

For cancer patients, Roth speculated that temporarily eliminating oxygen dependence in healthy cells could make them less vulnerable targets to radiation and chemotherapy.

"Right now in most forms of cancer treatment we're killing off the normal cells long before we're killing off the tumor cells," he said. "By inducing metabolic hibernation in healthy tissue we'd at least level the playing field."

Eric Blackstone, a graduate research assistant in Roth's laboratory, was lead author of the journal paper.

* "Craig Woolheater" <ecwool@swbell.net>

A Big, Hairy, Wild Idea: Bigfoot is one of those mysteries humans crave — and it sure brought school alive for a while. By Mary Hansen, The Register-Guard, Eugene, OR

There's a road near my town, Florence, called the North Fork. It hugs the base of heavily wooded mountains that cradle a small valley filled with farms and open skies.

One Monday night, during a wave of decent weather and a full moon, I went for a night drive up the North Fork. I was alone. I had probably been driving for half an hour when, about 10 yards in front of me, a brown flash streaked across the road.

"Deer!" I thought to myself.

I hit the brake and rolled down the window. Driving slowly with my head half out of the car, I watched the cluster of bushes, silver in the moonlight, for any movement. When I came to the spot the deer had ducked into, I stopped completely. The bushes were quiet. The road was empty.

Then came the smell, musky and thick. I turned from the bushes to the road before me. The first thing I saw looked like a knee. A big, muscular, hairy knee. I looked up and saw a broad hairy, chest and two flashes that had to be eyes. A raspy sound filled the near quiet. Whock. Whock.

My heart leapt into my mouth. I slammed my car into gear and hit the gas. As soon as I came into phone range, I called one of my friends and choked out a conversation that went something like: ``You ... I saw ... I don't know ... It was big and hairy and it smelled..."

I was hyperventilating and laughing and frightened so badly I was crying. The diagnosis: I had just seen bigfoot.

That news travels fast in a small town is no lie.

The next day at school, everyone was talking about bigfoot. Stories began rising from students who had seen strange things, but were too ashamed to speak out.

``Good ol' Andy Gray, he's a nice boy y'know. Well, he saw something - and it wasn't a bear, and it wasn't a deer, because it just walked right up the mountain on two legs."

``Yeah, I saw this thing walk in front of my truck headlights, and it's right arm swung with it's right leg."

One kid even claimed to have seen an albino bigfoot.

By the end of the day, bigfoot fever had officially hit the school. There were a few skeptics, of course, including me. I had seen something, surely, but what exactly? Could something as fantastic as bigfoot actually exist?

Maybe the stories weren't just stories. After all, hasn't truth often been stranger than fiction? It was a wonderful notion to toy with.

And just as easily as my classmates had caught the fever, I caught the fever. A tension seemed to hang in the air, an energy, the powerful force of 500 students swept up in a resurrected fairy tale.

A week or two after the fever struck, a photo began to circulate. A kid who lived up the North Fork had set up a wild game camera with his dad, and they had photographed something. The creature in the picture

ooked like a shapeless blob to me, but it was enough to fuel the fantasy. Someone began hanging posters of the photo in the halls. Below it, three words: ``Do you believe?''

By the weekend, a massive bigfoot hunt had been planned.

In many ways, I think that it was less of a chase after something unbelievable than it was an excuse for people, with hearts welcoming possibility, to seek answers to an abstract question. Perhaps it is only the young who are infected with such far-fetched dreams, but this does not lessen their brilliance.

Still, the question remains. Is bigfoot real, or just a legend fired by naive minds? In truth, I don't know.

Those who went on the hunt admitted to finding no more than animal tracks and the fleeting glimpse of a deer or two. Yet they were not unfazed.

Sasquatch, Bambi or Bullwinkle - one of the things that amazed me most about the ordeal was that wild things, both creatures and ideas, are not as distant as we are sometimes taught to convince ourselves.

For a few days, the student body seemed alive with hope and curious wonder. The school, myself included, couldn't help but believe in something that wasn't completely logical, or true, or provable.

We were just like people all throughout human history who needed to believe in something extraordinary, who were driven to search for answers, who had returned empty-handed but not empty-hearted.

There is only one crutch strong enough to support such tremendous forces: Faith.

Mary Hansen is a junior at Siuslaw High. She can be reached at 20Below@guardnet.com.

"Have you done the north slope?"

* This was too good. I had to pass it along.
Rob the ToonMan Friday, April 15, 2005 9:05 PM
Subject: Bigfoot Confession

Before I start, I just want to say that I am a true believer in Bigfoot, but I have a little confession.

A few years back, I started some Bigfoot hysteria at a campground in Central Oregon. The campground is located on the Deschutes River, and has a day area picnic ground across the river. I have a 4x4 that has CB with PA and a big speaker. One Summer night about 11 pm, I drove down to the picnic area when I knew the campground was full. I positioned my truck pointed directly at the campground. Using a tape of a Bigfoot scream, I recorded off of the Art bell Show, I played it over the trucks stereo and into the CB's mike.

The scream reverberated across the river valley and into the campground. I hung out just long enough to hear people starting to freak out in the camp, then I took off. I drove out slow so the trucks big V-8 pipes weren't to obvious and headed back to the house. The next day in town, people were all talking about the mysterious scream heard down by the Deschutes. Apparently several campers had trouble sleeping that night.

It was fun to do, but I just had to admit to it now.
Anonymous

* Source: CNN Date: 09 August 2003
Seeking answers to big 'mystery ape'

Clues to new ape species? By Marsha Walton

CNN) -- From a remote region in the heart of Africa to a genetics lab at the Omaha Zoo, scientists are trying to find out if they have a new big ape on their hands.

"It doesn't look much like a gorilla, it doesn't look like a chimpanzee," said primatologist Shelly Williams, who captured a bit of video of the female mystery ape with a baby. Pictures of the rare ape are scarce. Wildlife photographer Karl Amman, who was first to spot the mysterious mammals a few years ago, said the animal has feet that are about two inches bigger than the average gorilla and is more flat-faced than other apes. Its behavior also sets it apart from other apes, researchers say.

The mystery ape often sleeps in big ground nests. Chimpanzees, for example, usually nest in trees to stay away from predators. And the mystery apes hoot when the moon rises and sets, something chimps don't do for fear of attracting lions and hyenas, Williams said.

So what could this animal be?

"We cannot rule out the possibility that it is a new species of ape, or a new subspecies or some form of hybrid," said Duane Rumbaugh, a professor at Georgia State University. "Discovering any new primate is a huge thing, a new ape would be incredible, " said Ed Louis, conservation geneticist at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska.

Common ancestor--Chimpanzees, bonobos (also known as pygmy chimps), and gorillas are all members of the ape family. Present-day apes and humans had a common ancestor in the distant past -- perhaps 6 million years ago, scientists say.

But Amman found some evidence and plenty of local legend to suggest another type of big ape also may call Africa home. The forest in the north central area of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the mystery ape lives, is known to be populated by chimpanzees. The nearest gorillas and bonobos are hundreds of miles away. Williams, who speaks the local language, Lingala, interviewed villagers about their sightings of the creature in the Bili forest of what was once the Belgian Congo and later the Republic of Zaire.

"Some people call them 'lion eaters' because they are so big," Williams said.

Using clever tricks---On her last trip to the region earlier

this year she got within about 15 feet of the animals. With some local trackers she was able to follow the apes for several hours. Williams and the trackers used some clever tricks to lure the mystery apes.

Pictures of the 'mystery ape' are rare because the animals are skittish and aggressive. Here a researcher captured an image from afar of one of the animals with her offspring.

"One of my trackers made the sound of a duiker, a small antelope, as if it were in pain," said Williams. Four or five of the mystery primates fell for the ruse and came running to kill it.

Chimpanzees and bonobos both are carnivorous. Chimps are known to eat monkeys, and at times other chimps; bonobos catch and eat fish.

Williams also has a fascinating anecdote from a longtime resident of the region, an 84-year-old Norwegian Baptist missionary known as "Madame Liev."

"Years ago, she was driving an old truck and one of these apes walked by in front of her. It was walking bipedally (upright) and was taller than her, and she's six feet tall," Williams said.

Comparing DNA--Conservation geneticist Ed Louis at the Omaha Zoo is working on an important piece of the ape mystery also.

"We compared fecal samples from this unknown animal to the DNA of captive gorillas, bonobos, and chimps," Louis said. "Our preliminary data shows that the mitochondrial DNA is chimp-like."

But mitochondrial DNA is passed down only from the mother's side. So if this species or sub-species is a hybrid of a chimp mother and a gorilla father, current DNA would only identify information from the mother. Tests yet to come are nuclear DNA tests: This roadmap would come from both parents.

Is it a hybrid?--If the mystery animal does turn out to be a hybrid of a chimp and a gorilla , for example, such inter-breeding would not be unique in nature. There are several examples of different species breeding successfully, said Louis.

There are hybridized green sea turtles and hawksbill turtles, as well as some hybrids of Borneo and Sumatran orangutans. Such pairings "can throw a monkey wrench in our idea of species," Louis said. Louis said he's eager to examine further samples from the mystery ape. Williams hopes to return to the African habitat this autumn.

She's already working on some tactics to improve her observation. She'll camouflage her skin because the animals have not seen light-skinned humans. She'll also follow the animals and try to camp out near them overnight, and she'll set up three more observation platforms near the animals' nests.

* Thought you all would be interested in this item from a career US forester.

Thom Powell Clackamas County, OR

RL writes: "Thom, I have some other comments on portions of the locals.

About fecal samples:

Back in 1978-79, I had 2 plastic bread wrappers full of fecal material. One smelled so awful that I threw it in the Forest Service dumpster. The other one I put in our home freezer. My wife threw it out the next time she defrosted. But I had showed the first sample to our senior wildlife biologist. After 20+ years, I can no longer remember his name. Ron something. His comment was "probably not a bear, but whatever it was, it weighed about 600 lbs. And we do not need to meet it." The fecal matter was making our eyes water, so I wrapped it in a couple more layers of plastic bags and put it in the dumpster, scheduled for emptying that night.

The next day, I drank a cup of tea with Joe Winter, a Ph.D. anthropologist then working on a USFS contract. Joe's comment was that it was too bad I had dumped the stuff, because we could learn a lot about dietary requirements and parasites. Joe went on to say that the parasite idea was worth pursuing because it was low-tech and easy enough to investigate. Forget the DNA and expensive analyses. Just get a good binocular microscope and learn about intestinal worms, etc. Joe was sure that parasites are specific to genera and maybe to species. And there is nothing threatening about some nerd studying tapeworms. A new species could be described in some esoteric peer-reviewed scientific journal and SO WHAT? Except that the only source for the new parasite is etc., etc. I would suggest that maybe we can forego the body of a Sasquatch if we can find the proper parasite.

* There is a Bigfoot Conference coming up
May 27, 28, 29th in Bellingham, WA.
Check out the list of speakers:
Loren Coleman
Dr. Jeff Meldrum
Lloyd Pye
Autumn Williams
Owen Caddy
Christopher Murphy
Thomas Steenburg
Al Berry & Ron Morehead
Robert Alley
John Andrews
Rick Noll
Thom Powell
John Kirk
Hampton Inn Hotel
Call 360-758-2443 for info, Jason Valenti
http://www.sasquatchresearch.com/src.html

* Kimba D'Michi <kimbasmeow@yahoo.com>

Sasquatch Tales By JASON MOON Assistant Editor

Footprints could be seen heading from the entrance of the building to the library, as Bigfoot made a surprise appearance at Cloverdale Middle School Monday along with award-winning author Roland Smith.

Smith ‹ a children's book author ‹ paid a visit to the school Monday to discuss how to write novels with the students.

Smith has written more than 15 books, including "Sasquatch." The fiction novel describes the father of a boy on a mission to stop a Bigfoot research team from killing Sasquatch when it is found. The book also intertwines the story of legendary thief D.B. Cooper.

Smith had two lectures Monday, the first with students in grades 5-6 in the morning and another in the afternoon with students in grades 7-8.

He told the students the story of how he became interested in writing. He said his parents bought him a typewriter for Christmas when he was five, even though he desperately wanted a bicycle.

Even though he had the typewriter, as a 5-year-old, there were a few things he wasn't able to do, particularly reading. He stressed to the students its importance on

Monday. "If you can read, you can do anything," Smith told the students.

He told the group how he began writing his first novel, "Sea Otter Rescue," after having to help rescue sea otters from the 1989 Exxon Valdez supertanker oil spill.

Smith told the students he was a research biologist through the Portland, Ore., Zoo. There were 400 sea otters that had their fur coated with oil and had to be cleaned. Smith said of the 400, the group responsible for helping the sea otters managed to save 300. He also said 5,000 sea otters and 250,000 birds died due to the oil spill.

Smith said he wanted to document the story so he began writing a novel.

"Write about what's important to you," he told the students. "When I write a book, I write about what's important to me."

He also told the students of his love for the red wolf. While working as a research biologist, he and a group of biologists helped the animal from becoming extinct, which led to the novel, "Journey of the Red Wolf."

He has also written non-fiction pieces about elephants, vultures and zoo nurseries.

Smith recommended four things he does to make sure his books are ready for publication.

He told the students to go to a library to begin research and also told them to keep accurate notes. He added to look at pictures and put together a story board, putting the notes in order for the novel.

He also told the students that "writing is revision," saying he had written several copies of his books. He called the other copies a "sloppy copy."

Since he started writing in 1990, Smith has won several honors, including the 2003-04 Missouri Mark Twain Book Award for "Zach's Lie," a novel regarding the life of a family in the witness relocation program.

CELOCANTH FISH ON DISPLAY AT U OF FL

* Russian "Robinsons" plan expedition along 56th parallel

MOSCOW, April 26 (Itar-Tass) - A group of "Robinsons" from Russia have been planning a journey round the world, all the time moving along the 56th parallel known as Moscow's latitude. The endeavor expected to continue for 56 days is believed possible with the assistance of the Cosmonauts Training Centre (CTC) in Zvyodzny (Star City) in the Moscow region, Chief of the CTC Survival Training Department Valery Trunov told Tass on Tuesday.

Yuri Lonchakov, Head of the Zvyozdny-based Cosmonauts' Team, who has two previous space expeditions to the ISS in his record, is going to take part in the expedition along the Moscow parallel, Trunov said.

The expedition titled "Robinsonada-2005" is to start from the Kremlin wall in downtown Moscow on July 1. The expedition is expected to return to the same place on August 25, according to Editor-in-chief of Russia's Guinness Book of Records Alexei Svistunov.

The expedition will cross the globe, moving through Russia, Canada, Scotland, Denmark and Sweden, using as many transportation facilities as possible. "Anything, beginning from an air balloon, tamed elephant, helicopter, dog's sledge, snowboard, water skis, tractor, stilts or even a donkey are welcomed," Svistunov said.

Before the expedition participants will undergo training at the CTC where they will be taught to use the latest space technologies, Trunov said. These technologies and equipment will help the Russian Robinsons find out whether the legendary aquatic monster is really hiding deep in the Loch Ness Lake in Scotland that by a strange coincidence is also situated on the 56th parallel, Svistunov said. Best regards from Switzerland!
Andreas Trottmann


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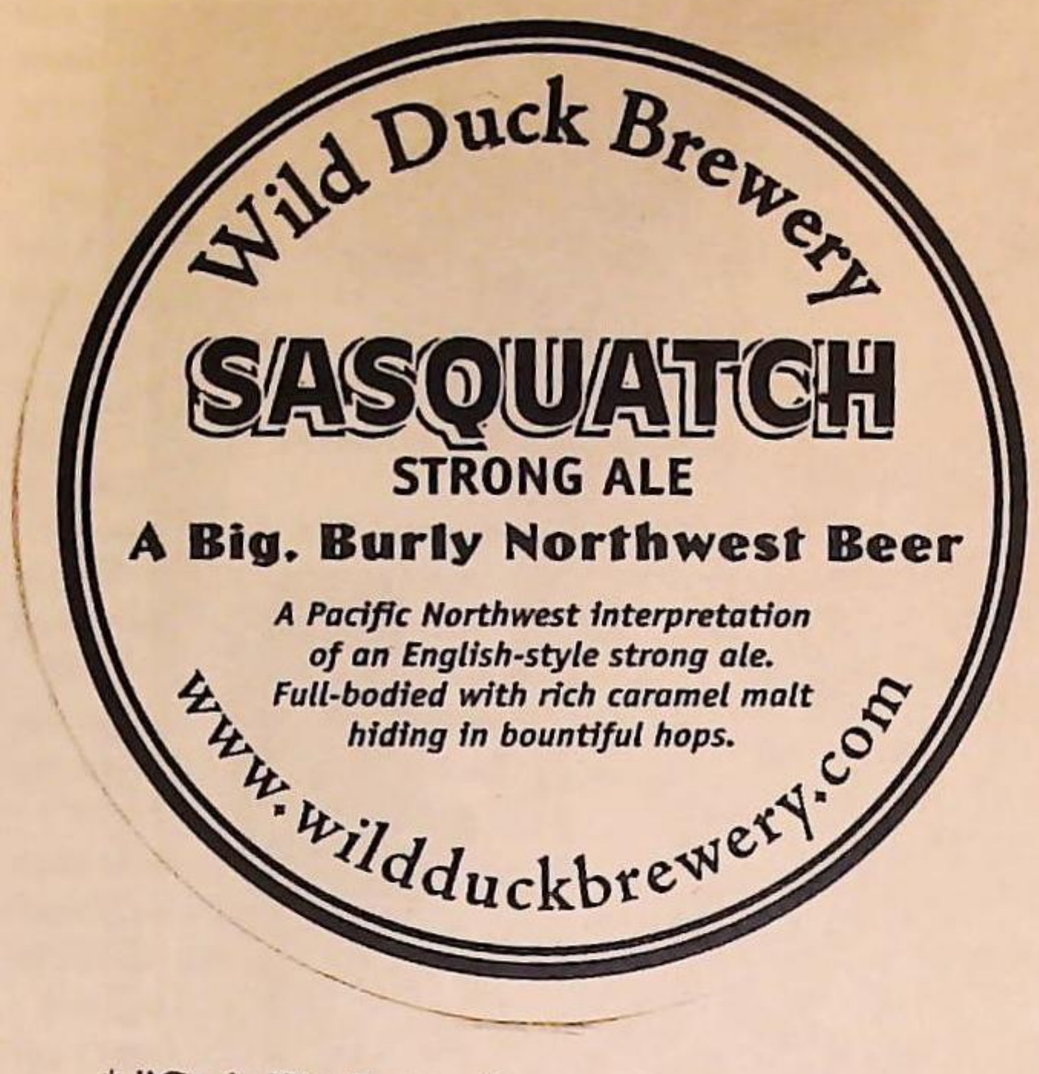


* "Craig Woolheater" <ecwool@swbell.net>

Selbyville Swamp Monster, April 19, 2005

By Constance Mensh - Special to the Times

Selbyville (Delaware), The Daily Times

Say the words "Great Cypress Swamp" in Selbyville, and one is instantly corrected.

"Around here everybody calls it the 'Burnt Swamp' because of the fires," said Scott Collins, Selbyville Chief of Police and local history buff, "But it's probably even more famous around here for the swamp monster sightings."

Famous for a reason. The Selbyville Swamp Monster was spotted on many occasions and even photographed many times. The first such frightening photo of a tall, yeti-like creature, menacing the innocent with its damp fur and swamp breath, appeared for the first time in what was then the Delmarva News on April 23, 1964. Though the monster was caught on film, it was never apprehended, and the tales of a shadowy dark monster lurking in the depths of the swamp continued to scare children and adults alike for decades.

The threat of the swamp monster--"My parents would always threaten to throw us to the swamp monster if we were bad," said Collins, "In the winter, when I was little we used to go ice skating out in the swamp but you never stayed past dark because of the swamp monster. Then when we got older that was the biggest thing- trying to stay out in the swamp all night on Halloween. I don't think we ever made it."

Though the Swamp monster legend is older than the old-timers can remember, the revival of the tale in the decades of Collins' youth can be linked to one man and his clever

Halloween costume.--According to Fred Stevens, a lifelong resident of Selbyville, a.k.a. The Selbyville Swamp Monster, it was he who posed for the photographs staged by Delmarva News Editor Ralph Grapperhaus in 1964.

"The newspaper man (Grapperhouse) started it to sell papers after he saw me in the Halloween parade in my swamp suit I'd made out of my aunty Dorothy Pepper's raccoon fur coat," said Stevens, "He'd take me out into the swamp and we'd take pictures and before you know it people were out there every night searching."

He tells of how the craze got so bad there were people coming out there with guns looking for the monster. After that he decided it had gone too far and they called it quits on the hoax. He promised Grapperhaus he wouldn't say anything for 25 years, which he kept until recent articles on the history of the swamp revealed the truth.

"A lot of the kids that grew up during that time, grew up afraid of that swamp monster. Boys would take their girlfriends through the swamp to prove they were brave, but I've seen the toughest guys lock their doors when driving through the swamp," said Stevens.

'Most frightful labyrinths you can imagine.'

The history of the swamp itself is a legend in itself and explains the oft-used moniker "Burnt Swamp."

According to a historical account by the English botanist Thomas Nutall, who visited the Great Cypress Swamp in 1809, "We began to enter one of the most frightful labyrinths you can imagine. It was filled with tall tangling shrubs thickly matted together almost impervious to the light."

At this time the swamp covered 50,000 acres, but just a half a century earlier was much larger. Today, stretching from the Maryland-Delaware border southwest for 73 miles to the Pocomoke Sound, the swamp is still an impressively wild, dark corner of Delmarva, though the acreage has been considerably reduced by industrial development and a series Of blazing forest fires.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, settlers began logging the swamp for the hardwood of the cypress trees for its resistance to rot and decay. Workers set up camps in the swamp to cut the cypress logs into tough, long-lasting shingles. Soon the wood was in high demand for shipbuilding as well.

Logging continued in the swamp until the mid 20th century, when the last of the great fires raged through the Sussex County portion and much of the Maryland side. The fire began in the 1930s after a drought left the swamp floor covered in highly flammable peat. It blazed for eight months and consumed what was left of the old cypress growth.

Today the swamp is still a plot of land thick with history, if not with the cypress logs that made it so important for many years.

According to Collins, there's stories of hunters and other people getting lost for days at a time and having to be rescued, but the biggest hunt happened after a small charter plane went down there in the 1970's. Rescues were attempted, but by the time the crews got out there, the people were dead. Though the engine was removed, the plane itself is still out there.

Over time, the Great Cypress Swamp in Sussex County has become more swamp than cypress, but conservation efforts have, since the 1970s, kept the area out of use. "Most of it is not usable, but the state is trying to preserve what is left of it. Private clubs rent out parts of it for hunting, but for the most part people just don't go back there," said Collins.

Again, for a good reason. The ghost of the Selbyville swamp monster probably still haunts the burnt swamp.

"I just remember all the stories and the sightings and being scared. We never knew that someone was pretending to be the monster," said Collins